EDLD 5306: Concepts of Educational Technology

This was my first course in the master’s program; therefore, there were many things I still needed to learn. In this course we had to analyze the Texas STaR chart. This was interesting to me because before this course I had only heard of this, but never actually looked at one. I have several teachers in my family that are all at different districts. I found it interesting to see where my school stood compared to theirs as far as technology. This course taught me to analyze data and focus on what needs improvement. I feel that this is something every leader should be able to do.

During this course we also created a wiki and a blog. Many of my team members had never heard of a wiki; therefore, this gave me an opportunity to teach my team to collaborate online. I am not sure many of them totally understood the effect online planning could have. We were able to plan from home instead of just during out forty-five minute conference time. We were able to easily share websites and pictures by simply adding a link to the wiki. This taught me the importance of communicating online and showed me ways I could use this communication with my students and parents as well. This was the first time I was able to feel like the technology leader on campus.

This class taught me about the Long Range Plan for Technology. This is wonderful information that I will need to be aware of during my career as a technology leader. The schools are reaching to accommodate for the 21st century learner. One thing I really had never given much thought to, was the digital divide. I grew up with a computer and we had internet when I was in 3rd grade. My family always had the new technologies; therefore, when I entered the classroom as a teacher I had a bit of a culture shock. I did not realize so many students in 2011 did not have computers or internet at home. This is something we as teachers need to focus on because regardless of their home resources these students have to have technology knowledge to be successful. I will need to be a technology leader and teach teachers how to teach in this way. Our world is moving in the direction of more and more technology and we have to prepare our children for the future. This course taught me about web 2.0 tools, to have an open mind about technology, and that technology is key to successful collaboration and great outcomes.

References:

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